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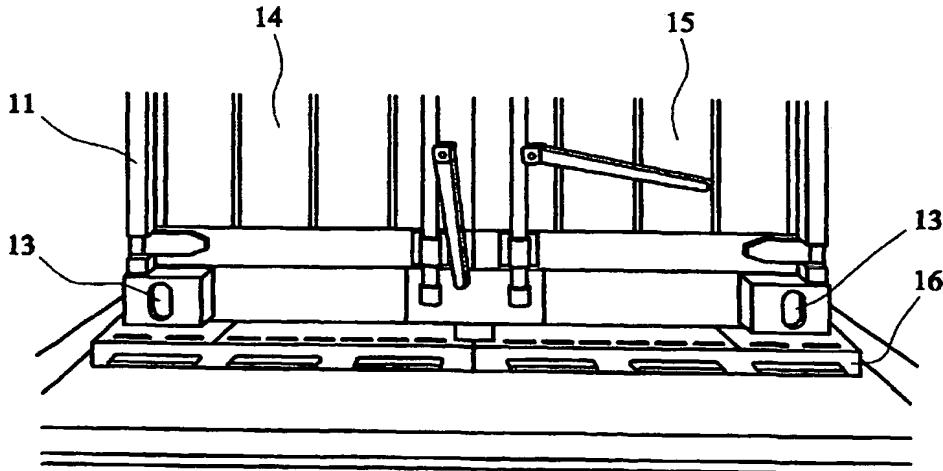
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— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SKID ASSEMBLY FOR FREIGHT CONTAINERS



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(57) Abstract: A skid assembly (16) for securement to the underside of a freight container (11), in order to assist the slidable loading and unloading of the container relative to a loading platform (17), the skid assembly (16) being arranged to be capable of extending between a pair of lower corner fittings (13) and to be securable thereto in order to secure the skid assembly (16) to the underside of the container (11), in which the skid assembly comprises: an elongate support (20) having upper and lower support surfaces, and lower support surface being engageable with a loading platform (17), and the upper support surface being engageable with the underside of the container (11); and a pair of clamping devices (21) mounted one adjacent to each end of the elongate support (20) and engageable with a respective one of the pair of lower corner fittings (13) to secure the skid assembly (16) to the underside of the container (11).

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/GB 03/01660

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B65D88/12 B65D88/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 B65D B64C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category ^a	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 1 188 665 A (BOEING CO) 20 March 2002 (2002-03-20) column 4, line 13 - column 5, line 37 figures 1-3	1,2,4-6, 17
Y	-----	3
X	US 4 049 135 A (GLASSMEYER JOHN J) 20 September 1977 (1977-09-20) column 1, line 6 - column 3, line 49 figures 3,6	1,4,6
Y	----- US 4 747 504 A (DELKER GREGG A ET AL) 31 May 1988 (1988-05-31) abstract column 4, lines 51-55 claim 8	3
A	----- ----- -/-	1,2

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

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2 September 2003

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTInternational Application No
PCT/GB 03/01660**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X,P	US 2003/021660 A1 (WELLS JAMES STERLING) 30 January 2003 (2003-01-30) page 2, paragraph 15-20 figures 2-4 -----	1,2,4-6

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/01660

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-7,17

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-7,17

A skid assembly comprising a longitudinal strip of resiliently deformable material

2. claims: 8-10

A skid assembly fabricated in two parts

3. claims: 11-14

A skid assembly comprising lateral projections

4. claims: 15, 16

A skid assembly comprising clamping devices

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

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Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1188665	A	20-03-2002	US	6427947 B1		06-08-2002
			CA	2356566 A1		07-03-2002
			EP	1188665 A1		20-03-2002
US 4049135	A	20-09-1977	NONE			
US 4747504	A	31-05-1988	NONE			
US 2003021660	A1	30-01-2003	NONE			